

**National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC)  
Conference Call Roll Call and Key Discussion Points  
Monday, October 19, 2020  
2:00–3:30 p.m. EDT**

**Roll Call**

***Tribal Caucus***

- ☐ Region 1: William (Billy) Longfellow  
(Passamaquoddy at Sipayik)
- ☐ Region 1 *Alternate*: Trevor White  
(Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township)
- ☒ Region 2: Neil Patterson Jr. (Tuscarora Nation),  
Chair
- ☐ Region 3: Vacant
- ☒ Region 4: Katie Tiger (Eastern Band of  
Cherokee Indians)
- ☐ Region 4 *Alternate*: Jerry Cain (Mississippi  
Band of Choctaw Indians)
- ☐ Region 5: Vacant
- ☒ Region 6: Craig Kreman (Quapaw Tribe)
- ☐ Region 6 *Alternate*: Vacant
- ☒ Region 7: Page Hingst (Santee Sioux Nation of  
Nebraska)
- ☒ Region 7 *Alternate*: Misha Mazurkewycz (Ponca  
Tribe of Nebraska)
- ☒ Region 8: Joshua Tweeton (Spirit Lake Tribe)
- ☐ Region 8 *Alternate*: Allyson Two Bears  
(Standing Rock Sioux Tribe)
- ☒ Region 9: Shasta Gaughen (Pala Band of  
Mission Indians)
- ☐ Region 9 *Alternate*: Crystal Robinson (Quartz  
Valley Indian Reservation)
- ☐ Region 10: Lee Juan Tyler (Shoshone-Bannock  
Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 *Alternate*: Kelly Wright (Shoshone-  
Bannock Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 (Alaska): Vacant

***EPA Caucus***

- ☐ Region 1: Vacant
- ☒ Region 2: Kai Tang
- ☐ Region 3: Regina Poeske
- ☒ Region 4: Dawn Taylor
- ☐ Region 5: Vacant
- ☐ Region 5 *Alternate*: Carole Braverman
- ☒ Region 6: Alexandra (Alexa) Olson
- ☒ Region 7: Christopher (Chris) Taylor
- ☒ Region 8: Monia Ben-Khalid
- ☒ Region 8: Justin Bleiler
- ☐ Region 9: Rebecca Jamison
- ☒ Region 10: Lon Kissinger
- ☒ AIEO: Francine St. Denis
- ☒ OAR: Amanda Kaufman
- ☐ OCHP: Ted Coopwood
- ☒ OCSPP: Karen Hamernik
- ☒ OCSPP *Alternate*: Amanda Hauff
- ☐ OLEM: David Charters
- ☒ OMS: Beth Jackson
- ☒ ORD: José Zambrana, Chair
- ☒ ORD: Brenda Rashleigh
- ☒ OW: Kate Graf

***Support Personnel and Invited Guests***

- ☒ Monica Rodia, TSC Executive Secretary
- ☒ Heidi Bethel, EPA ORD CSSRP
- ☒ Hari Karne, EPA ORD/ORAU Student  
Contractor
- ☒ Kristen LeBaron, Support Contractor (SCG)

**Action Items**

1. TSC members will read the monthly teleconference minutes to ensure that they are aware of current activities, news and action items.
2. TSC members who know of opportunities for Amanda Hauff to present about the tribal children's lead curriculum will contact Amanda.
3. TSC members who know of tribal recycling collection practices that have been adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic will contact Alexa Olson.

## **Key Discussion Points**

### ***Roll Call and Distribution of Meeting Minutes***

- Monica Rodia took the roll and explained that the September meeting minutes had been finalized and distributed.
- TSC members should read the minutes each month to ensure that they are aware of current activities, news and action items.

### ***Caucus Report Outs***

- Neil Patterson reported that during the recent Tribal Caucus meeting, the members had discussed the importance of holding effective virtual consultation while observing proper etiquette and respecting cultural practices. The group also discussed an Indigenous knowledge presentation at the recent 2020 National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference; the presentation is available at [nticc2020.pathable.co/meetings/virtual/nQx6K4oP9ieiPnaca](https://nticc2020.pathable.co/meetings/virtual/nQx6K4oP9ieiPnaca). In terms of the ongoing TSC effort to collect Indigenous research protocols and methodologies, the National Park Service's Tribal Research Policies, Processes and Protocols are available at [www.nps.gov/subjects/tek/tribal-policies-processes-and-protocols.htm](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tek/tribal-policies-processes-and-protocols.htm). The Tribal Caucus may move the day and time of its monthly meeting.
- José Zambrana reported that during the recent EPA Caucus meeting the EPA Representatives discussed best practices and technologies for holding virtual meetings, the Tribal Children's Lead Virtual Roundtable on November 10, the ongoing literature review of subsistence seafood consumption, and the possibility of a future webinar to share wildfire resources with tribes.

### ***November TSC Virtual Meeting***

- The TSC Fall 2020 Virtual Science Meeting will be held 4 consecutive afternoons during the week of November 30.
- The next Agenda Development Team meeting is October 20.

### ***Science Seminar: Lead Awareness in Indian Country: Keeping Our Children Healthy—A Curriculum on Lead for Tribal Communities, Amanda Hauff, National Tribal Program Manager, EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention***

- Amanda highlighted the main curriculum infographic that the team developed, based on TSC feedback, to show what actions individuals can take to reduce or prevent their family's exposure to lead, including eight outcomes on which the curriculum focuses. The infographic is included on the lead curriculum poster and flyer and in the Module 1 worksheet.
- The curriculum effort was aligned with EPA and federal efforts to reduce childhood lead exposure, part of the *Environmental Justice 2020 Action Agenda*. The team obtained initial feedback from a meeting with 30 tribal leaders who discussed the need to develop beneficial resources for tribes and ensure that tribal research, development and data were considered in the Federal Lead Action Plan. The curriculum was developed with a tribal-led, EPA-partnered approach and includes culturally relevant and useful information and examples. Each tribal community can modify the curriculum to suit its needs.
- The goal of the curriculum is to increase understanding and awareness of childhood lead exposures and protective actions. The primary targets to teach the lead curriculum include tribal community leaders, community health workers, outreach specialists and community youth workers. The primary target

audience to receive the training includes parents, grandparents, tribal leaders, daycare providers, health care workers and other interested tribal members.

- The team obtained input about the curriculum from more than 200 tribal members representing more than 80 tribes from across the United States. EPA input was obtained from regions and program offices. Federal input was collected from the Indian Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Conceptual tests were run with the TSC and other tribal groups, and pilots were held with the Oneida Nation and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The EPA Administrator provided ongoing support for the effort.
- Amanda provided a general overview of the introductory materials and the four modules: (1) Understanding Lead, (2) Effective Cleaning Techniques, (3) Personal Hygiene and Nutrition, and (4) Hiring Certified Lead Professionals. Each module includes a lesson plan, presentation slides, a worksheet, key messages and “Kids Activity Sheet.” Parents may take home such resources as the Kids Activity Sheet and the document with key messages. Amanda showed examples of many of the materials.
- Amanda highlighted the next steps.
  - The lead curriculum will be published on October 21.
  - On October 27, the curriculum will be presented as part of the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council Tribal Children’s Health Webinar Series.
  - The team is hosting the 90-minute Tribal Children’s Lead Virtual Roundtable on November 10 to discuss the curriculum. The EPA Administrator may attend.
  - Train-the-trainers sessions will begin in January 2021; the TSC could assist with this effort.
  - Information about the lead curriculum will be published in the TSC’s newsletter early in 2021.
  - Throughout 2021, the team will present to each Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) and host rotating events.
- TSC members who know of opportunities for the team to present about the lead curriculum will contact Amanda.

### ***Round Robin and Announcements***

- The *Report on the Environment* team is considering harmful algal blooms as an indicator because of their effect on human health and the environment.
- The Exchange Network Tribal Governance Group and Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals will be holding their 2020 Virtual Conference on October 27 and 28 and the 2020 Virtual Data Academy in early November. The conference is aimed at a wide audience, whereas the academy is geared toward tribes and will include virtual workshops on topics of tribal interest. Monica has distributed the registration information to the TSC.
- The Office of Water’s “Introduction to Surface Water Quality Modeling” training webinar for states, tribes and EPA is being held on October 19 and 20.
- The American Indian Environmental Office is ready to publish its website about EPA’s tribal accomplishments during the last 50 years for Native American Heritage Month. The office is planning on issuing a press release and social media posts to promote the website.
- Region 9 held a successful RTOC meeting, and Shasta Gaughen received many suggestions about Indigenous research frameworks. Members expressed a great deal of interest in establishing a Region 9 workgroup to develop a prototype Indigenous research framework.

- Region 8 invited Headquarters staff to discuss new Quality Management Plan requirements for tribes; the state process was completed earlier. Region 8 is offering tribes flexibility with their plans.
- EPA Region 6 is collecting success stories about tribal recycling collection practices that have been adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic and plans to issue a press release during the week in which America Recycles Day (November 15) is held.
- Craig Kreman explained that the National Tribal Air Association is developing its position on the *McGirt v. Oklahoma* decision and issued a white paper on EPA's response to Oklahoma regarding the decision and its potential impacts in Indian country, which Craig sent to the TSC members. The Region 6 RTOC meeting will be held in November. Craig agreed that a webinar about wildfire preparation and mitigation would be of interest to tribes and thought that a webinar on the topic might be being planned. The NTAA is planning on working with the Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center on a nationwide tribal air needs assessment and also is interested in the effects of increased ethanol on underground storage tanks.
- The Region 5 RTOC invited scientists from the Office of Research and Development to speak at its recent meeting. Andy Gillespie presented on PFAS, and Chris Impellitteri spoke about climate adaptation impacts on stormwater research. Monica spoke about the TSC and formally requested that Region 5 fill the TSC Tribal and EPA Representative vacancies. The region nominated a member of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and Monica will share more information when the potential representative is confirmed.
- Heidi Bethel explained that she is working with Monica and Tony Williams on a presentation about the EPA CompTox Chemical Dashboard for the TSC's Fall 2020 Virtual Science Meeting. The Chemical Safety for Sustainability Research Program is working on engaging tribes and states, and Heidi will be working with Monica on an engagement strategy for tribes.
- Neil's latest focus has been on decisions regarding the release of the genetically modified American chestnut tree. The TSC may want to monitor this emerging topic, which includes Indigenous perspectives, consultation and governance regarding the release of genetically modified or engineered organisms and species. The deadline for comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal, Plant and Health Inspection Service regarding the release of the genetically modified American chestnut tree was the day of the TSC monthly call. EPA has limited role in this issue, and EPA staff could present a future Science Seminar on the topic. The accelerated pace of CRISPR and genetic modifications may be a good future topic for the TSC. The "Gene Editing in Agriculture and Food: Social Concerns, Public Engagement and Governance" virtual conference is planned for October 20 and 21.

***Next conference call: November 16, 2020, 2:00–3:30 p.m. EST***